

WOOD ALCOHOL USED IN MAKING DEATH WHISKEY

Can of the Stuff Found in Cellar of Saloon Owned by Rudolph Fritsche, Who Has Been Arrested—Many Victims Obtained Liquor in His Place.

A preliminary report on the whiskey which is believed to have killed William Drain, one of the seventeen victims, was made to Coroner Scholer by Dr. Atkinson, of the Board of Health, to-day. The report says that the analysis, as far as it has proceeded, shows beyond any doubt the presence of wood alcohol in the whiskey. This confirms the belief the police have had from the first, that wood alcohol, a deadly poison, was used by certain liquor dealers in the adulteration of their whiskey, and that that alone is responsible for so many deaths on the west side.

Special Revenue Agent C. O. Fellows visited the saloon of Rudolph Fritsche, at No. 723 Tenth avenue, to-day, where the whiskey that Drain used is said to have been bought, and where all of the dead people were in the habit of going for whiskey from time to time. After taking samples from eight barrels he placed the Government seals on the others.

It is believed that the revenue officials took this step to protect themselves. The barrel whiskey must have been passed by them in order to be placed on sale, and the presence of poison in the whiskey will have a serious effect on the inspectors who passed the liquor as standard, unless it can be shown that adulterants were afterward used by Fritsche or some one in his employ.

FOUND CAN OF WOOD ALCOHOL.

During a search of the saloon of Rudolph Fritsche to-day by Assistant District Attorney Garvan, Police Capt. Hussey and Detectives Carter and Connolly for some trace of the mysterious poison which has killed seventeen persons a two-gallon can of what appears to be wood alcohol was found and immediately confiscated. The can was found in a remote part of the cellar. It was almost filled. That it is alcohol of some kind there is no doubt, and the strong, disagreeable odor which distinguishes wood alcohol is so pronounced that the authorities have little doubt of its real character.

The can has been sent to the Department of Health for analysis. If it turns out to be wood alcohol it solves the mystery of all the recent deaths among the whiskey drinkers of "Stryker's Farm." The symptoms shown by all those who have died have been those of wood alcohol poisoning.

The police theory now is that Michael McAuliffe, Fritsche's bartender, who was himself killed by the same poison which destroyed the lives of the others, placed the wood alcohol in the whiskey barrels. That he did not know the nature of the adulterant he was using is shown by the fact that he was one of the victims himself. There is no evidence that Fritsche knew what was being used in his whiskey, and the police are inclined to think that a blunder of McAuliffe in weakening the stock in the barrels, led him to use a can of wood alcohol when he should have used something else.

TO ANALYZE WHISKEY SAMPLES.

In addition to the two-gallon can confiscated, the searching party took fifteen samples of the whiskey in the place, all of which will be analyzed at once. McAuliffe's stomach has also been sent to the health officials for analysis.

McAuliffe had only worked in the place for three weeks. He was a prize-fighter at one time and had a great following along Tenth avenue. His employment by Fritsche brought all his friends to the saloon as patrons, and it is these people who were killed. The police say to-day that the report that all of the dead people were friends is an error. The only bond between them was that they were all friends of McAuliffe.

Fritsche was arraigned in the West Side Court before Magistrate Cornell to-day and held on a short affidavit. His examination was fixed for Oct. 15 and bail was fixed at \$2,500. He gave bonds. Fritsche refused to make any statement beyond that he was not guilty of any crime and that the analysis of his liquor now in the hands of Health Department officials would show it.

In investigating the deaths, Coroner Scholer has asked that the police get a list of the dead persons who were insured and the names of the beneficiaries in each case.

The investigation, taking as it does these lines, has given rise to the report that wholesale murder has been committed in the west side district known as "Stryker's Farm," and that some of the victims of wood alcohol were done to death for insurance in sums ranging from \$100 to \$500, and that the beneficiaries furnished the alcohol, or that their agents acted for them in putting the insured men and women to death.

MAY HAVE BEEN 100 VICTIMS.

In pursuing his investigation Coroner Scholer declared to-day that the seventeen who are known to have died after drinking the cheap concoction of wood alcohol since Sept. 24 are only a few who have been killed by the poison.

"There is no reason to suppose that there are not 100 victims," he said. "I have asked Dr. Gifford, of the Board of Health, to give me a complete record of the deaths in the district since Sept. 20, so that we can determine the number of whiskey victims. It may be necessary to exhumate a number of bodies to pursue our investigation, but if so it will be done."

It has been learned that many men and women, all of them homeless or practically so, outcasts and drunkards who hang about cheap saloons, sleeping in rear rooms or doorways, eating what free lunch they can get, and living only for the drink handed out to them by the bartenders and saloon proprietors, are insured for the benefit of some of the saloon-keepers, to whom they are indebted. These outcasts get credit up to a certain amount, and then, for self-protection, the saloon-keeper takes out a policy on their lives, paying a small amount every week until death comes from alcoholism or some other cause, when the beneficiary collects the insurance money and pays himself for any whiskey he might have given the unfortunate on trust.

This not only has been practised by the keepers of grog shops, but by other hangers-on who speculate on the lives of the neighborhood drunkards. If the theory advanced by the Coroner is correct two of the big New York life insurance companies have been mulcted for large sums of money by means of murder through the medium of wood alcohol sold as whiskey or brandy.

MORRIS PARK ENTRIES FOR TO-MORROW.

(Special to The Evening World.)
RACE TRACK, MORRIS PARK, Oct. 13.—The entries for to-morrow's races are as follows:

FIRST RACE—High-wheel handicap; six and a half furlongs of Withers mile.		
929	Mamie Worth	124
930	Grand Water	125
931	Collector Jessup	126
932	Martineau	127
933	Joke	128
934	Chimes	129
935	Waterside	130
936	Gaudin	131
937	Grandeur	132
938	Jack Battle	133
939	R. L. Johnson	134
940	Glencho	135
941	Crown Prince	136
942	J. J. Butler	137
943	Alton	138
944	Shaver	139
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